

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently Amended)** ~~A~~An isolated polypeptide which consists of an amino acid sequence having 90% or more amino acid sequence identity to ~~an~~the full length amino acid sequence ~~shown by~~of SEQ ID NO:6 retaining a consensus Arg-Gly-Asp motif, and having an integrin binding activity selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha v\beta 3$ ,  $\alpha v\beta 5$  and  $\alpha 9\beta 1$ .~~, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of integrin-binding activity and homo-complex formation activity.~~

**2. (Currently Amended)** ~~The~~A polypeptide of claim 1, which is a polypeptide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6;
- (b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 10; or
- (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 14.

**3. (Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1.

**4. (Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide of claim 3, which is a polynucleotide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:5;
- (b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 9; or
- (c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 13.

**5. (Withdrawn)** A polypeptide which consists of an amino acid sequence having 90% or more amino acid sequence identity to an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of lysyl oxidase-binding activity, lysyl oxidase-like-1-binding activity and LTBP2-binding activity.

**6. (Withdrawn)** A polypeptide of claim 5, which is a polypeptide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8;
- (b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 12; or
- (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 16.

**7. (Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 5.

**8. (Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide of claim 7, which is a polynucleotide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:7;
- (b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 11; or
- (c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 15.

**9. (Withdrawn)** A method of cleaving DANCE, which comprises contacting DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease.

**10. (Withdrawn)** An antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 1.

**11. (Withdrawn)** A monoclonal antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 5.

**12. (Withdrawn)** A method of determining an amount of DANCE cleaved, comprising measuring the amount of DANCE cleaved in a biological sample from an animal.

**13. (Withdrawn)** A reagent for determining an amount of DANCE cleaved, which comprises an anti-DANCE antibody.

**14. (Withdrawn)** A DANCE mutant incorporating an amino acid mutation in the DANCE cleavage site with a DANCE-specific protease so that the mutant exhibits resistance to the protease.

**15. (Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide consisting of, or comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**16. (Withdrawn)** A DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**17. (Withdrawn)** The complex of claim 16 which comprises at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms.

**18. (Withdrawn)** The complex of claim 16, which further comprises lysyl oxidase and/or LTBP2.

**19. (Withdrawn)** A DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**20. (Withdrawn)** A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, which comprises contacting at least two DANCES to form a complex, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**21. (Withdrawn)** A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2, which comprises contacting at least one DANCE with LTBP2 to form a complex, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**22. (Withdrawn)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d):

(a) contacting a test substance with the DANCE-specific protease;

(b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above;

(c) comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without contacting the test substance;

(d) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) above.

**23. (Withdrawn)** The method of claim 22 which is a method for identifying a regulator of the formation of elastic fibers.

**24. (Withdrawn)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d):

- (a) administering a test substance to a non-human animal;
- (b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above;
- (c) comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without administering the test substance;
- (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) ~~(b)~~ above.

**25. (Withdrawn)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d):

- (a) contacting at least two DANCES in the presence of a test substance;
  - (b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from the step (a) above;
  - (c) comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test substance;
  - (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) above,
- wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**26. (Withdrawn)** The method of claim 25 wherein at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms are used.

**27. (Withdrawn)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d):

- (a) contacting at least one DANCE with LTBP2 in the presence of a test substance;
  - (b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from the step (a) above;
  - (c) comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test substance;
  - (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) above,
- wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**28. (Cancelled)**

**29. (Withdrawn)** A screening method for a DANCE-specific protease with DANCE cleavage activity as the index.

**30-32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Withdrawn)** A kit comprising the following (a) and (b):

- (a) DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14, or an expression vector thereof;
- (b) at least one of the following components (i) to (iv):
  - (i) DANCE which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);
  - (ii) an expression vector of DANCE which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);
  - (iii) LTBP2;
  - (iv) LTBP2 expression vector.

**34. (Withdrawn)** A method of identifying a cell expressing a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) to (b):

- (a) contacting DANCE with a certain animal cell;
- (b) determining whether or not the DANCE is cleaved.

**35. (Currently Amended)** The polypeptide of claim 1, which is a fragment of human or mouse DANCE polypeptide ~~derived from human or mouse~~.

**36. (Withdrawn)** The polynucleotide of claim 3, which is a polynucleotide derived from human or mouse.

**37. (Withdrawn)** The polypeptide of claim 5, which is a polypeptide derived from human or mouse.

**38. (Withdrawn)** The polynucleotide of claim 7, which is a polynucleotide derived from human or mouse.

**39. (Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9, wherein DANCE is contacted with DANCE-specific protease in culture medium comprising a cell expressing DANCE-specific protease, or in a fraction from the medium, which has an activity of cleaving DANCE.

**40. (Withdrawn)** An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 15 and a promoter operably linked thereto.

**41. (Withdrawn)** A cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 40.

**42. (Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the DANCE mutant of claim 14 or the expression vector of claim 40, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**43. (Withdrawn)** The antibody of claim 10, which is a monoclonal antibody.

**44. (Withdrawn)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 11.

**45. (Withdrawn)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 43.

**46. (Withdrawn)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 45.